

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 /042 W

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R 150545Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2158

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2321

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, AF, PK

SUBJ: AJMAL KHATTAK

1. SUMMARY: BRITISH JOURNALIST ANDREW MURRAY HAD INTERVIEW WITH EXILED PAKISTANI POLITICAL LEADER (NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY) AJMAL KHATTAK ON APRIL 13. KHATTAK STATEMENTS AS TOLD US BY MURRAY BY NO MEANS PROFOUND AND CHIEF INTEREST OF ENCOUNTER WAS READINESS (IF NOT EAGERNESS) WITH WHICH AGHAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FACILITATED THE MEETING. KHATTAK GENERALLY SOFT PEDALLED POSSIBILITY OF HIS BECOMING INVOLVED IN VIOLENCE IN PAKISTAN AND HOPED FOR SOLUTION TO PASHTUN PROBLEMS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF "PAKISTANI FEDERATION." END SUMMARY.

2. BRITISH FREELANCER ANDREW MURRAY, WHO USUALLY PUBLISHES IN LONDON TIMES, VISITED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMATION OFFICE APRIL 13 IN CONNECTION WITH SERIES OF INTERVIEWS HE HOPES TO HAVE HERE. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION HE MENTIONED AN INTEREST IN SEEING NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY LEADER AJMAL KHATTAK, RESIDENT IN KABUL SINCE MARCH OF 1973 WHEN HE FLED PAKISTAN. INFORMATION OFFICE DEPUTY INSTEAD OF PROVIDING INFORMATION REQUESTED, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER, OFFERED INSTEAD TO SET UP AN INTERVIEW IMMEDIATELY.

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3. MURRAY THEREUPON WHISKED AWAY TO "KARTE SE" AREA OF

KABUL, TO PRIVATE RESIDENCE NEAR HABIBA SCHOOL, FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW BELIEVED WIDELY AMONG KABULIS TO BE HOUSE AJMAL KHATTAK IS OCCUPYING. MANY PEOPLE HAD COMMENTED ON HEAVY POLICE GUARD TO BE SEEN AT HOUSE, (WHICH LED MOST AMERICANS TO CONCLUDE IT WAS A PRECINCT STATION) BUT ACCORDING TO MURRAY HE WAS LET PASS AT ONCE AND TAKEN TO KHATTAK.

4. KHATTAK IMPRESSED MURRAY AS QUIET MAN, CERTAINLY JUDGING FROM THIS INTERVIEW NOT GIVEN TO POSTURING. ACCORDING TO MURRAY, KHATTAK PROFESSED NOT RPT NOT TO HAVE ALLOWED HIS SUPPORTERS IN PAKISTAN TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE ALTHOUGH HE SAID, "A TIME MAY COME WHEN THIS IS NECESSARY". KHATTAK ALSO PROFESSED TO HAVE ACCEPTED NO ARMS FROM OUTSIDE TO CARRY ON "HIS STRUGGLE", THOUGH HE SAID MANY OFFERS HAD COME TO HIM. HE STATED HOPE THAT PUSHTUN RIGHTS COULD BE OBTAINED WITHIN PAKISTANI FEDERATION, AND SAID IT WAS NOT HIS AIM TO LEAD TO BREAKUP OF THAT NATION. (NOTE: USE OF WORD "PAKISTANI FEDERATION" MAY BE NEW ELEMENT IN KHATTAK'S POLITICAL DRAMA, BUT ON OTHER HAND MAY HAVE BEEN AN OFFHAND SUMMATION, PERHAPS BY MURRAY HIMSELF.) OCCASION WAS IN SHORT MOST BLAND. MURRAY NOTED KHATTAK SEEMED TO HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH ENGLISH.

5. MURRAY DESCRIBED AS MUCH MORE INTERESTING AND LIVELY HIS CONVERSAION AT KHATTAK RESIDENCE WITH A YOUNG FIRE-BRAND BALUCHI WHO GAVE HIS NAME AS "MOHAMMAD KHAN" AND INVITED MURRAY TO DROP DOWN TO BALUCHISTAN SOME DAY AND "SEE THE INSURGENT CAMPS." MOHAMMAD GAVE MURRAY A POST OFFICE BOX AT THE MICRORAYON STATION ("MIVCORAYON" IS THE NAME GIVEN TO A LARGE BLOCK OF NEW APARTMENTS CONSTRUCTED WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE AND CONSIDERED AN "IN" PLACE AMONG KABUL RESIDENCES) AND INVITED CORRESPONDENCE. ALSO GAVE TELEPHONE NUMBER SHOULD MURRAY WANT FURTHER CONTACT BEFORE LEAVING KABUL.

6. FOR CMNDOGC GRATEFUL FOR CLIPS OF ANY ARTICLES THAT MAY RESULT FROM MURRAY INTERVIEWS HERE, WITH KHATTAK OR ANY OTHER SOURCES. MURRAY ALSO HOPED TO SEE WAHEED ABDULLAH BEFORE LEAVING TOWN AND HAD SUBMITTED WRITTEN  
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QUESTIONS TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN PREPARATION.  
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## Message Attributes

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